

LD 14; Heb. 2:10-18; Heb. 4:14-16 “Son of Mary” I. Like us- our Brother II. For us- our Mediator

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, why was it necessary for Jesus to be like us- to be one of us? This critical question has been raised and answered various ways in the catechism thus far- as in LD 6 where the question was asked- why must our mediator be true God and true man? But since this question is so pivotal- and the answer so hard for our fallen, scientific minds to accept, we are brought back to consider the necessity of the incarnation again. Specifically- how was it that the Son of God became the Son of Mary. We are proceeding through the AC- having looked at the names and offices of the 2nd person of the Trinity. Now we look at his entrance into the human race. We confess that by way of the Holy Spirit, Jesus took to Himself from the flesh of Mary a true, human body. As the biological son of Mary, Jesus would likely look like Mary sharing her physical characteristics. He was not an alien to the human race, but as we will see, He was just as much man as you and I are! At issue here is how human was and is Jesus? Was the form of His body implanted into Mary’s womb- or was his growth and birth more similar to our own conception and birth? Well, today we see that Jesus Christ was conceived in Mary’s womb for our eternal comfort!

I. Like us- our Brother

To begin, we see that Jesus is like us in every way- our brother. Now some of you like genealogies- to find your national heritage. When you meet someone new at church you ask- who is your father? Knowing their family helps you understand their history- where they came from. Well, what does the Bible tell us about the earthly family of Jesus? The genealogy of Matthew proves that Jesus came from the line of David- the Son of Abraham. His lineage is that of a Hebrew- the nation of Israel- the Jewish people with whom God had covenanted. But the genealogy of Luke 3 has a different focus- beginning all the way back to the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God! The purpose of this genealogy is to prove the link between Jesus and humanity. As our text says in v. 11- Jesus comes from one source- the same fountain that produced Adam also produced Jesus- and that source was God who made man in His own image. One human nature shared by both Adam and Jesus. He is therefore not ashamed to call us brothers- as v. 11 continues- because we are really brothers. We are of the

same family- the one family of humanity. There are not different humanities- there are not multitudes of races in the human clan. Only one race- the human race- which all men- black, white, brown or red- we all share this one source and thus are rightly called the brotherhood of man. Just as God made Adam from the dust of the ground- so God by the Spirit made Jesus' flesh from Mary and out of Mary's womb. As the thought continues in v. 13- citing from Isaiah 8- Jesus associates Himself with those who belong to God- referring to the chosen church as children of God along with the Son. And in case you still have doubts about the humanity of Jesus- v. 14 says that He shares with us flesh and blood- the same flesh and blood that we have. This was necessary in that He needed to have a body that could suffer- flesh that could be pierced- and as a man He would be able to die. He needed a human heart that could stop beating- man's blood that could flow from His pierced side.

Yet in being fully man- one with us and like us- He remained free from sin. As Heb. 4:15 states, He was in every respect tempted and yet remained without sin. In this way, Jesus' incarnation reminds us that to be man does not necessarily mean that you must be a sinner! He was fully human and fully righteous- fully holy and free from stain! Proving that our humanity is not so tainted as to be unredeemable! By way of the Holy Spirit's overshadowing of Mary- Jesus' incarnation was unique because no depravity or original sin was applied to Him. However, that does not mean that He was free from the effects of sin. Quite the contrary, being a perfect man in a fallen world only heightened His senses and the sting of death was all the sharper because of it! He still lived His life in a fallen world surrounded by sinning and stubborn people! He would weep, hunger and thirst- He would be hated, abused and despised- and yet remain holy and free from all sin! And the work of Jesus applied to every part of our being. He was and is fully man! Every part that was needed for Him to be man was here secured. A human body and soul- flesh and blood- organs and a brain- even a human will and desires. Nothing necessary for Him to be fully man was left out- He lacked nothing so that He could truly be called the son of Adam. As we learned earlier- this was necessary because man had sinned- therefore a man needed to pay for our sins. The help that he provides is not given to angels- He did not take on the form or nature of an angel in order to save the lost ones of that race as v. 26 says. As QA 35 affirms, He has a truly human nature. He

adopted- or took to Himself this human nature. Losing nothing of His divinity, He became that which He was not- a man. This was a divine act of love and humility- as Phil. 2 would say- He took on the form of a servant and humbled Himself- coming in our likeness. Remaining God and becoming man. Coming at the appointed time- being born in the chosen race- He could at this time be called the Son of Adam and the Son of God! The chosen seed of Abraham- helping the offspring of Abraham as v. 16 says- so that by Him all nations of the world would be blessed. Of the house and line of David- David's promised Son who would sit on his father's throne forever. This is a divine mystery- but it is also an article of faith! How the eternal God can be born into this world as a man who would die- is a miracle that was necessary- so that we might be saved! As the angel Gabriel said to Mary- with God all things are possible!

II. For us- our Mediator

Since He is one with us- and yet without sin- how do we benefit? QA 36 is looking for an application of this truth. As v. 11 indicates- we needed to be from one source with Him so that we might be sanctified with Him! We share in His humanity- thus we can share in His restoration of human nature! We can enjoy the recovery of a holy and sanctified body and soul! He is able to bring peace between God and man because He is both God and man! Able to be our mediator- who sues for peace and satisfied the justice of an offended God. As QA 36 says, since He is a sinless man He is able to remove my sins! For Jesus, His holy conception and birth sets the stage for His suffering and death! As our substitute, He was born to die and thus set us free! He had to be able to suffer in order to bring many sons to glory- v. 10. So that though His death- v. 14- He might defeat death and deliver us from slavery! Since this is who He is, He must be the object of our worship. He is the one we praise as God- and He is close and acquainted with us as our brother! He adopted our nature so that we might be adopted as the Father's children. He is not ashamed of us- but delights to call us His family! Being one with us enables Him to be above us and one with us- as v. 17 says- a merciful and faithful High Priest! He is greater than every other priest- living forever and offering a perfect sacrifice once for all in the holy tabernacle. But He is also close to us and compassionate! Sharing our flesh, He knows our weakness as v. 18 says- being tempted in every

way- tempted in the body and soul- tempted by Satan himself- He knows our struggles. Whatever trial or temptation you are going through, you can know that Jesus has been there- He has gone before and He has overcome! He gives us hope and even assurance! The King of Kings- the Lord over all- and the just judge who is coming back to judge the living and death- this one is My Brother and Friend! He is both fair and understanding- compassionate towards us and encouraging us- giving us the strength we need during our trials! The one who will separate the sheep from the goats is the very one who has already suffered and died in my place! I will look at the face of the Judge on the white throne- and recognize Him as my older, loving brother! As some of you know, having an older brother can be a blessing! He can protect you at school, He can drive you where you need to go, He can look out for you and even give access to new opportunities. Well, Jesus as our older brother gives us access to the Father and He gives us every blessing and strength by the Spirit during our times of need! Pouring out blessings upon us! There is great comfort in this truth! Since my sinful life necessitated His holy life- my fallen and stained body required His holy and perfect body- we can rest assured that every part of me- every part of you has been covered by His work! No part of your body our soul was left out- every aspect ransomed and redeemed! Added to this- every moment of your life falls under the scope of His atonement! From conception to death- Jesus lived as one of us- for us! No moment of your life falls outside the realm of His redeeming work! He endured the wrath and curse of God- remained perfect at every moment of a human's life- suffering in my place so be my propitiation! God's just judgment against man was here satisfied and paid in full! My sins- as QA 36 concludes- sins I have inherited and committed from conception- are all paid for since He was conceived in perfection and continued to live a perfectly holy life! Every part of you- and every moment of your life has been covered by His precious blood!

To conclude, the divinity and humanity of Jesus is an article of faith that we confess every week. Although difficult to grasp, we embrace it as wonderful truth. Jesus Christ was conceived in Mary's womb for our eternal comfort! The Father Sent His Son because He loved us. The Son took on flesh to save us. He remains the son of Mary, born of the virgin- as well as our Lord and our God!